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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
Of Minorities
Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 15

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Ms. Daes: draft resolution

International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter, is the achievement of international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993, in which the Assembly proclaimed the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/26 of 4 March 1994,

Recalling also that the General Assembly in resolution 48/163 requested the Commission on Human Rights to invite the Working Group on Indigenous Populations to identify an appropriate date for the celebration of the International Day of Indigenous People,

Recalling further that the Commission on Human Rights in resolution 1994/26 requested the Working Group to identify possible programmes, projects and other activities in connection with the Decade,

Recognizing the importance of consulting and cooperating with indigenous peoples, the need for financial support from within the United Nations, and aware of the need to build on the results and lessons of the International Year,

Having considered the report of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations on its twelfth session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/30),

1. Welcomes the proclamation by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993 of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, commencing on 10 December 1994;

2. Also welcomes the decision of the General Assembly that the goal of the Decade should be the strengthening of international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in areas such as human rights, the environment, development, education and health;

3. Stresses the importance of achieving the adoption of the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples by the General Assembly before the conclusion of the Decade;

4. Takes note with appreciation of the note on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People prepared by the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, Mrs. Erica-Irene Daes (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/52);

5. Recommends that the International Decade have an operational focus and that the theme for the Decade be "Indigenous peoples: a new relationship: partnership in action";

6. Also recommends that attention be paid to improving the extent and effectiveness of indigenous participation in planning and implementing the activities for the Decade, including through the recruitment of indigenous staff by all relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, funds for this purpose being provided from the regular budget of the United Nations and the specialized agencies;

7. Decides to recommend that the International Day of Indigenous People be observed every year on 9 August, that date being the anniversary of the first day of the first meeting of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations in 1982;

8. Recommends that the Secretary-General establish, during the first quarter of 1995, the voluntary fund for the Decade foreseen in paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution 48/163 and that he consider the appointment of a board of trustees including indigenous members to administer the fund;

9. Also recommends that a second technical meeting on the International Decade be convened prior to the thirteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations to consider the final programme of action for the Decade and that its suggestions be referred to the Working Group for elaboration;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to consider renewing the appointment of Mrs. Rigoberta Menchu Tum as United Nations Goodwill Ambassador.